IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1-7 to read as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for the prevention, reduction or treatment of radiation dermatitis caused by one or more types of radiation selected from the group consisting of alpha radiation, beta radiation, gamma ray radiation and x-ray radiation, comprising the step of applying to an area of skin which has been or will be exposed to said one or more types of radiation, a topical composition which comprises:

an amount of one or more compounds that inhibit at least one of cell differentiation and cell proliferation, metabolites thereof, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, which is effective, when administered topically in the topical composition to inhibit at least one of cell differentiation and cell proliferation, and

an effective amount of one or more antioxidants, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof,

formulated in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier for a topical composition.

2. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the one or more compounds that inhibit at least one of cell differentiation and cell proliferation are selected from the group consisting of vitamin D_3, 1(S), 3(R)-dihydroxy-20(R)-(1-ethoxy-5-ethyl-5-hydroxy-2-heptyn-1-yl)-9, 10-seco-pregna-5(Z), 7(E), 10 (19)-triene, compounds that are converted or metabolized into vitamin D_3 in the human body, metabolites thereof, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

3. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the one or more compounds that inhibit at least one of cell differentiation and cell proliferation are selected from the group consisting of: cholesterols, 7-dehydrocholestrol, vitamin D_3, 1, 25-dihydroxyvitamin D_3, 1(S), 3(R)-dihydroxy-20(R)-(1-ethoxy-5-ethyl-5-hydroxy-2-heptyn-1-yl)-9, 10-seco-pregna-5(Z), 7(E), 10 (19)-triene, and 25-hydroxycholecalciferol, calcitriol, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

4. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the one or more antioxidants are selected from the group consisting of: ascorbyl palmitate, ascorbic acid, vitamin A, vitamin E acetate, α-lipoic acid, coenzyme Q10, glutathione, (-)-epigallocatechin-3-gallate, catechin, galangin, rutin, luteolin, morin, fisetin, silymarin, apigenin, gingkolides, hesperitin, cyanidin, citrin, curcuminoid, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

5. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the compound that inhibits at least one of cell differentiation and cell proliferation comprises vitamin D_3, and the antioxidant comprises vitamin A, vitamin E acetate, and α-lipoic acid.

6. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier comprises a sufficient amount of at least one non-U.S.P. hydrophilic ointment base to form a topical composition.

7. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier further comprises a sufficient amount of a panthenol selected from D-panthenol and DL-panthenol to promote penetration of one or more of the antioxidants and compounds which inhibit at least one of cell differentiation and cell proliferation, into the skin.

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated January 15, 2002 (hereinafter "the Office Action"). Claims 1-7 have been amended. After entry of this amendment, claims 1-12 are currently pending in the present application.

Claim 1 has been amended to require the topical composition of the present invention include one or more compounds that inhibit at least one of cell differentiation and cell proliferation, metabolites thereof, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof. This amendment is supported by the original disclosure at lines 9-11 of page 3 of the specification.

Claim 1 has also been amended to require that the method of the present invention treat radiation dermatitis caused by one or more types of radiation selected from the group consisting of alpha, beta, gamma ray and x-ray radiation. Support for this amendment can be found in the original disclosure at lines 6-15 of page 14. The specification also states that the preferred